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U.S. to Retaliate for Expulsion of Five Diplomats

Response 'Will Make Clear Our Displeasure' With Soviets, White House Says

By Lou Cannon and David B. Ottaway
 Washington Post Staff Writers

The Reagan administration will take retaliatory action, probably today, in response to Soviet expulsion of five American diplomats, White House and State Department officials said yesterday.

The officials declined to be specific about the U.S. action, but a White House source said "it will make clear our displeasure" with the Soviets.

State Department spokesman Charles E. Redman said the U.S. response "won't be long in coming . . . there's certainly going to be a reaction."

At the department's daily briefing, Redman said the Soviet action, announced Sunday, "is totally without justification and cannot help but have a detrimental effect on our relations."

He and White House spokesman Larry Speakes rejected the Soviet assertion that the five diplomats—four embassy officials in Moscow and a consular officer in Leningrad—had engaged in activities "incompatible with their status," a euphemism for spying.

"We're reviewing our options as to what we might do . . . we will examine the situation and

take appropriate action," Speakes told reporters.

A White House official, who declined to be identified, said the administration is trying to find a response that will show U.S. displeasure without "perpetuating the cycle of retaliation and counter-retaliation."

The official acknowledged that expulsion of additional Soviet officials would likely cause further "tit-for-tat" action by the Soviets.

The cycle began Aug. 23 when the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested Gennadi Zakharov, a Soviet physicist working for the U.N. Secretariat in New York, on espionage charges. The Soviets then detained American journalist Nicholas Daniloff in Moscow on similar charges.

In the political outcry that followed, the administration ordered expulsion of 25 members of the Soviet U.N. Mission on grounds that they had engaged in espionage. All have departed.

The United States did not formally link the expulsion order to the Daniloff case, and the Soviets in turn made no reference to the expulsion when they ordered the five Americans expelled.

A Reuter news service dispatch from Moscow quoted Soviet sources yesterday as saying they were hoping that what they called the relatively "moderate" response of expelling five diplomats would end the retaliatory exchange.

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